Pewsey Rural Sanitary Authority.

ANNUAL REPORT

— OF THE —

Medical Officer of Health,

1906.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my Report for the year ending December 31st, 1906. The population is estimated at 11,211, and the area in acres 75,219.

Birth Rate. There have been 317 births during the year, the rate being 28·26 per 1000; this is slightly less than in 1905. Of these, 162 were males and 155 females. The illegitimate births were 19 in number, 11 being males and 8 females—4 more than in 1905. The birth-rate in the Collingbourne district still remains higher than in the Netheravon district, there being 168 births in the former and 149 in the latter district, or 33 and 24·34 per 1000, both being less than in 1905.

Death Rate. The number of deaths in the whole district was 151, to which must be added 3 deaths of residents in the district which took place in public institutions in London, bringing the total to 154 in the year, the rate per 1000 being 13·73, showing a diminution of nearly 2 per 1000 as compared with 1905. The death rate in the Netheravon district was 14·7, this including the deaths in the Union Workhouse, which numbered 13, or 4 less than in 1905. The death rate in the Collingbourne district was 12·57 per 1000.

Infantile Mortality. The total number of deaths under 12 months was 24, an increase of 4 over 1905, the rate being 72·55 for 1,000 infants born. There were 12 in the Netheravon district and 11 in the Collingbourne, 1 dying at a home in London. Of these deaths 3 were illegitimate children.

During the past year the general health of the District has been better than for years past, there has practically been no epidemic disease at all, only one school has been closed and that only for 14 days.

Schools closed. I., Oare owing to an epidemic of mumps from March 6th to March 20th; II., the school at Alton Berners was closed on account of an epidemic of measles occuring in Alton Priors, Alton Berners, and Honeystreet, from October 13th to October 29th. This school does not belong to the district, although most of the children attending do.

Notifiable Diseases. There have been 22 cases of notifiable disease in the whole district, being 13 less than last year. Thirteen cases occured in the Netheravon district and 9 in the Collingbourne. There were 4 cases of diphtheria, 9 of eysipelas, and 9 of scarlet fever. The distribution was as follows:—

Diptheria. Pewsey, 2 cases; Ludgershall, 1; and Netheravon, 1. All recovered.

Erysipelas. Pewsey, 3 cases; Collingbourne Ducis, 1; Collingbourne Kingstone, 2; Enford, 1; Burbage, 1; and Milton, 1. One case, a child of seven months, at Collingbourne Kingstone, proved fatal.

Scarlet Fever. Bottlesford, 2 cases; Enford, 4; Ludgershall, 1; Alton Priors, 1; and Burbage, 1. The four cases at Fyfield, Enford, all occurred in one cottage, the property of the War Office. One of these cases was also notified as having Erysipelas and appears under that heading. The case at Alton Priors was removed to the Devizes Isolation Hospital. All cases recovered.

Water Supply. An extension of time has been given to the workings of the water supply scheme at Ludgershall. In Pewsey, the District Council have purchased a piece of land for waterworks, and is now getting contracts signed by the Engineer. A loan of £900 has been granted for the trial bore. Four new wells have been sunk and six cleansed and repaired, and fourteen samples of water taken for analysis.

Houses. Nine new houses were built in the district during the year, these were all provided with earth closets. The districts were as follows:—3 houses in St. James' Street, Ludgershall; 2 houses and shops in Winchester Street, Ludgershall; 1 house in Winchester Road, Ludgershall; 2 cottages in Manningford Abbotts; and 1 house in Manningford Bruce. Three cottages were made fit for habitation and 1 closed as unfit, 6 cleansed and whitewashed; 4 cases of overcrowding were reported and 3 insanitary urinals rectified.

Privies and Ashpits. Twelve additional ones were provided, 2 converted into pail closets, 10 were repaired, and 22 school closets were inspected by the Sanitary Inspector.

Scavenging. Eighteen privies and ashpits and 22 portable receptacles were cleansed. There is very little improvement in the condition of the streets of Pewsey, a water cart is much needed in the summer months.

The Medical Officer of Health has inspected 11 butchers' shops and slaughter houses, all satisfactory with one exception, which was rectified. 39 bakehouses were inspected by Medical Officer of Health and notices of insanitary conditions sent in 5 cases. The Sanitary Officer inspected 30 bakehouses that number being on the register. 33 factories and workshops were also inspected by the Medical Officer of Health, a record of the conditions prevailing in all the foregoing has been kept.

Dairies and Cowsheds. During the year I have inspected 138 dairies and cowsheds, of which 97 are registered; 305 men are employed in this industry, and 2287 cows were in milking at the time of my inspection, which extended from May 26th to November 21st. I can report that, taken generally, there is very considerable improvement in the conditions prevailing in the cowsheds; the cows are also much cleaner in most of the larger dairies. With those who keep only a few cows there is still much that ought to be done in many cases.

With regard to the milkers the same cannot be said; in very few cases are any milking garments provided, and the men milk in clothes which are very dirty—covered with an apron of sacking which is still more dirty. Proper milking dress should be provided, under supervision, also each man should be made to wash his hands, both before and after milking. Seven cases were served with notices by the District Council, and the orders complied with. A complete record of all the cowsheds has been kept.

There has been no action under the Food and Drugs Act or the Factory and Workshops' Act during the year.

I am, Gentleman,

Yours obediently,

EDWARD W. RAYMENT, M.B., C.M.B.Sc.,

M.O.H. to the Union of Pewsey.